

REMARKS

I INTRODUCTION

The Applicant and the undersigned attorney thank Examiner Benny Quoc Tieu for the Examiner's careful review of this patent application. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks which are responsive to the Action mailed September 10, 2002. In the Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-18 and 22-26, and rejected claims 1-16 and 22-26. Claims 17 and 18 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-7, 11-13 and 17-18 have been amended. Claims 1-18 and 22-26 remain pending in this application.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 5, 11 and 13 on the ground that these claims contain informalities such as "a plurality" rather than "said plurality", and "a subscriber" rather than "said subscriber." The Examiner objected to all dependent claims because they depend from claims 1, 5, 11 or 13. Applicant submits that all independent claims have been amended to correct such informalities. Further, the Examiner advised Applicant to consider all dependent claims and make appropriate corrections because the limitations in the dependent claims may no longer match the amended independent claims. Any necessary amendments have been made to the dependent claims. These claim amendments are not submitted to further distinguish the recited invention over the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to these claims.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,746,747 to *Yue et al.* ("Yue"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleged that *Yue* teaches, in an integrated computer telephony system including a call routing system, a system and method for routing a call based on the identity of an originating source of said call, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a plurality of routing lists for a telephony subscriber, each of said routing lists comprising a plurality of directory numbers where the subscriber can be reached (Abstract), and for each of said routing lists:

associating each routing list with at least one originating source (column 7, lines 9-11);

determining an order of said directory numbers (column 7, lines 4-6);

receiving said call from a first originating source (column 10, lines 24-27);

identifying said first originating source of said call (column 10, lines 27-54);

selecting a routing list from said plurality of routing lists based on the identity of said first originating source (column 3, lines 16-20); and

directing said call sequentially to the directory numbers on said routing list selected (column 40-57).

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited sections of *Yue* describe creating a number of hierarchical destination lists based on the time of the day and day of the week (Abstract and column 7, line 4-6). Each of the routing lists described by *Yue* is created for all callers for a specific time/day. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in *Yue* to associate different routing lists with different originating sources.

The cited sections of *Yue* also describe overriding the destination lists with an alternative destination for all callers or only selected (priority) callers (column 7, lines 9-11). If the override applies to all callers, then all callers are routed to the override destination. If the override only applies to selected (priority) callers, then only the priority callers are routed to the override destination. The non-priority callers are routed to the default destination. Column 11, lines 1-12. The override destination is not a list, but a single destination, such as a particular telephone number. The default or final destination is a destination specified by the subscriber and is used if the subscriber cannot be reached or refuses the communication. Column 7, lines 30-34.

The Examiner alleged that *Yue* differs from the claimed invention in that *Yue* does not have a plurality of ordered numbers in each list, but simply a destination number. The Examiner also alleged that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply a forwarding feature to *Yue* if the destination number is busy or not answered. However, the Examiner's allegation is unsupported. In fact, *Yue* teaches away from the use of call forwarding. *Yue* describes the shortcomings of call forwarding in the Background section. *See e.g.*, Column 1, line 58-Column 2, line 15. *Yue* describes a personal number communication system that obviates the need for a call forwarding system. Thus, there is no motivation to combine the personal number system of *Yue* with a call forwarding system, as alleged by the Examiner.

The present invention, as recited in claims 1, 5, 11 and 13, comprises creating or storing a plurality of distinct routing lists for a telephony subscriber, each of said lists having a plurality of directory numbers and each of said routing lists being associated with at least one originating source. Creating or storing the plurality of distinct routing lists comprises receiving a first plurality of directory numbers for the subscriber; receiving a first order for the directory numbers; creating a first routing list; receiving a first calling number; associating the first calling number with the first routing list; receiving a second plurality of directory numbers for the subscriber; receiving a second order for the directory numbers; creating a second routing list; receiving a second calling number; associating the second calling number with the second routing list. The present invention provides seamless access to a subscriber in an efficient manner and provides advantages that *Yue* does not provide. "The ability to route calls based on the identification of the calling party or calling line is advantageous because a subscriber can (a) limit interruptions due to personal calls; (b) reduce the amount of hold time required for business calls by eliminating routing locations where the subscriber would not be found during business hours; (c) give priority service to important calls; and (d) give restrictive service to unwanted calls." Specification, p. 5, lines 16-23.

Although *Yue* describes a number of destination lists, the destination lists are not associated with a calling number. The destination lists are used to route all calls, regardless of calling number. The lists are associated with a time of day/day of week. Different lists are used for different times of day or day of week. The different lists are not for different calling numbers.

Moreover, the list of priority callers described by *Yue* is not associated with a destination list. The list of priority callers (if used) is associated with only a single override destination. Because creating or storing a plurality of distinct routing lists for a telephony subscriber such that each of said routing lists is associated with at least one originating source is not taught or suggested by *Yue*, claims 1, 5, 11, and 13 are not obvious over *Yue*. Therefore, claims 1, 5, 11, and 13 are patentable over *Yue*.

Claim 1 recites selecting a routing list from said plurality of routing lists based on the identity of said originating source and directing said call sequentially to the directory numbers on said routing list selected. *Yue* does not describe selecting a routing list from a plurality of routing lists where each routing list is associated with a calling number. Even if the Examiner contends that the override destination is associated with the priority callers, the override destination is a single destination. The override destination does not teach "directing said call sequentially to the directory number on said routing list selected," because there is only a single override destination. Thus, *Yue* does not describe that a call can be directed sequentially to a plurality of numbers in a routing list that is associated with a calling number, as recited by claim 1.

Claims 5, 11 and 13 also require directing a call/communication sequentially to the directory numbers on said routing list where the routing lists are associated with a calling number. As described above, *Yue* does not describe a plurality of routing lists, each routing list having a plurality of directory numbers and being associated with a calling number. Nor does *Yue* describe directing a call sequentially to the directory numbers on such a routing list.

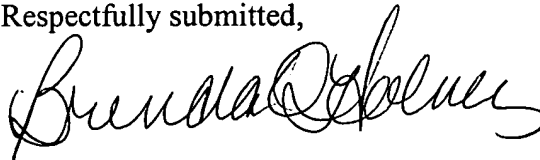
Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12, 14-18, 22-26 depend from independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 13. The remarks made above in support of the independent claims are equally applicable to distinguish the dependent claims from the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed September 10, 2002. Still, the Official Action may contain other arguments that are not directly addressed by this response due to the fact that they are rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in favor of patentability. Hence, failure of this response to directly address an argument raised in the Official Action should not be taken as an indication that the argument has merit. Furthermore, the claims of the present patent application may include other elements, not discussed in this response, that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references and therefore, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call Brenda O. Holmes at (404) 685-6799.

Respectfully submitted,



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